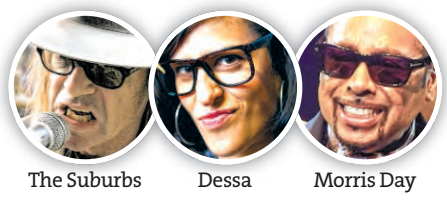
★★★★★

Soul Asylum Sheila E Bob Mould

SUPER BOWL LIVE!
FREE CONCERTS SET
MINNESOTA


The Suburbs Dessa Morris Day

SATURDAY
December 2, 2017

StarTribune

150 YEARS 1867-2017

47° 33°
Enjoy it while it lasts, the 20s are coming. **B6**

TOP NEWS

RESIDENCE TOWER OFF NICOLLET
Developers planning 40-story apartment tower with 261 units on 5th Street. **D1**

Cancer gene profiling OK'd
FDA approves first test that looks for mutations in many genes at once. **A7**

Sticking to State business
Amid reports he'd be ousted, Secretary of State Tillerson toils on. **A4**

Charlottesville police faulted
Report finds they were ill-prepared for white supremacist rally. **A4**

Pope seeks forgiveness
He meets with Rohingya refugees. **A4**

LOCAL NEWS

Mpls. council shifts budget
It cuts downtown enforcement in favor of other public safety goals. **B1**

Historic path muddles rail
Southwest LRT route cuts historic path, complicating its future. **B1**

SPORTS

Badgers shoot, Gophers win
Men hold on to beat Wisconsin 5-4 despite far fewer shots. **C6**

Thunder get past Wolves
On third try this year, Oklahoma City prevails. **C1**

BUSINESS

Strong housing construction
November saw the most permits in a single month so far this year. **D1**

VARIETY

Holiday cheer of yore, here
We picture a Victorian scene, but Nicollet Mall of the '50s bustled. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?
Mice, roaches, peeling paint — the White House is a bit of a fixer-upper. **A2**

GOP's tax bill passes Senate

Hours of debate, amending culminate in 51-49 vote.

By ERICA WERNER and DAMIAN PALETTA • Washington Post

WASHINGTON – Senate Republicans early Saturday passed a $1.5 trillion tax bill that bestows massive benefits on corporate America and the wealthy while delivering mixed blessings to everybody else.

The vote on final passage, coming just before 1 a.m. CST Saturday, was 51 to 49. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn, was the lone GOP holdout.

Senators late Friday went into a marathon voting session known as a "vote-a-rama," where any senator could force a vote on any amendment.

The final bill will still have to be reconciled with an earlier House-passed version before being sent to President Donald Trump. Yet in getting the bill through the Senate, Republicans succeeded where they failed earlier this year, when their efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act collapsed in mortifying fashion.

This time, urged on by donors and fearful of facing voters in next year's midterm elections without a legislative achievement to show, Republicans said time and again that failure was not an option.

"The American people wanted change," said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. "We were able to deliver." The centerpiece of the GOP plan is a move to lower the corporate tax rate

See **TAX** on A6 ►

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE • Associated Press
"We have the votes," Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell said as he went to the chamber.

GOP hints at safety net cuts next
Democrats are bracing themselves for the GOP's next possible effort: cutting welfare, Social Security and Medicare. **A6**

Online: Find the latest details on the tax debate at **startribune.com**

FLYNN GUILTY OF LYING TO FBI

Top Trump aide ordered contact with Russia

SUSAN WALSH • Associated Press
Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, center, arrived at federal court in Washington on Friday to enter a guilty plea.

By CAROL D. LEONNIG, ADAM ENTOUS and DEVLIN BARRETT • Washington Post

WASHINGTON – Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and, in an ominous sign for the White House, said he is cooperating in the probe of possible coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin to influence the 2016 election.

When Flynn was forced out of the White House in February, officials said he had misled the administration, including Vice President Mike Pence, about his contacts with Kislyak. But court records and people familiar with the contacts indicated he was acting in consultation with senior Trump transition officials, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, in his dealings with the diplomat.

Flynn's plea revealed that he was in touch with senior Trump transition officials before and after his communications with the ambassador. The pre-inauguration communications with Kislyak involved efforts to blunt Obama administration policy decisions — on sanctions on Russia and a United Nations resolution on Israel — potential violations of a rarely enforced law.

Flynn said in a statement: "It has been extraordinarily painful to endure these many months of false accusations of 'treason' and other outrageous acts. Such false accusations are contrary to everything I have ever done and stood for. But I recognize that the actions I acknowledged in

See **FLYNN** on A5 ►

KUSHNER SCRUTINY
Was he the "very senior" official who was cited in the legal papers?

TRACKING FLYNN
Key moments in his ties to the Russian ambassador. **A5**

FLYNN'S STATEMENT
"The actions I acknowledged in court today were wrong, and, through my faith in God, I am working to set things right. My guilty plea and agreement to cooperate with the Special Counsel's Office reflect a decision I made in the best interests of my family and of our country."

Plea shatters hopes of quick end to inquiry

By PETER BAKER and MAGGIE HABERMAN • New York Times

WASHINGTON – At his Mar-a-Lago private club over the Thanksgiving weekend, President Donald Trump appeared happy and relaxed, relieved to be away from the stresses of Washington. His mind was partly on the Russia inquiry that had irritated him for months. But he insisted to friends that it would soon wrap up and clear him of wrongdoing.

ANALYSIS

A week later, the guilty plea of his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, seemed to shatter that hopeful prediction. The investigation hardly seems close to ending, and news that Flynn is cooperating with prosecutors sent shivers through Trump's team. While the legal danger remains uncertain, the investigation, at the very least, has wrought grievous political damage to his presidency.

The fall of Flynn, who was once so close to Trump that he was considered a viable prospect to be his vice-presidential running mate, came on a day that should have been a moment of triumph for the president. After months of stymied ambitions on Capitol Hill, he appeared to have secured enough votes to pass his tax cut plan in the Senate.

In the end, the tax plan may resonate more powerfully with the public

See **ANALYSIS** on A5 ►

Metro's jobless rate best in nation

Nashville, Twin Cities tie with 2.3% unemployment.

By JIM SPENCER
jim.spencer@startribune.com

WASHINGTON – No big metro area in the country has a lower jobless rate than the Twin Cities, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported Thursday.

Unemployment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro was just 2.3 percent in October. That tied the Twin Cities with the Nashville, Tenn., metro for full employment. The national unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in October.

The Twin Cities metro benefits from a very diverse economy, said Steve Hine, director of labor market information at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). It "has everything from medical technology and [information technology] to a lot of corporate headquarters. There is a strong presence in the leisure, hospitality and retail industries."

The high education level of the workforce combines with a strong desire to work to keep Minnesotans in the job market, Hine said. "Generally, people

See **JOBS** on A7 ►

Our winters are losing their bite

By MARY LYNN SMITH
marylynn.smith@startribune.com

Minnesota winters just aren't what they used to be. And the numbers prove it.

Winters are warming across the country, but Minnesota is among the states where temperatures are rising even more dramatically. In fact, Minneapolis and Mankato, followed by Fargo, are among the top five spots in the country where those temperatures are rising the most, according to recent research published by Climate Central, a group of scientists and journalists who report on the changing climate.

"You just can't take cold or snow for granted, which sounds bizarre to say to a Minnesotan," said Twin Ciites meteorologist Paul Douglas. "The majority of our winters are trending milder, with less consistent snow. It's not your

See **WARM** on A7 ►